MARVEL
#1
cullen BUNN · iban COELLO · matt YACKEY
VENOMVERSE
delgado
MARVEL
INHUMANS
A MARVEL TELEVISION SERIES
IN IMAX THEATRES NOW!
abc SEPT 29

NEW YORK CITY. NOW.
COMING THROUGH, MEATBAGS!
WATCH YOUR HEADS!
OR DON'T! EITHER WORKS FOR JACK O'LANTERN!
W-WHERE IS HE?
WHERE THE HELL DID HE GO?
EVERY TIME I THINK I'M DONE WITH THIS FREAK, HE COMES BACK FOR MORE!
GUY NEEDS TO LEARN SOME BOUNDARIES!
RESPECT MY TERRITORIAL BUBBLE!
SORRY, JACK.
BUT I GUESS--

MAMA DIDN'T TEACH ME GOOD MANNERS!

OONNFF!
YOU AND ME, JACK...
...WE GOT UNFINISHED BUSINESS.
I WAS GONNA GET AROUND TO YOU SOONER OR LATER.
BUT YOU WANNA SHOW YOUR PUMPKIN IN MY TOWN...WELL, THEN...
SKRRRTZ!
...NOW'S AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY!
O-OKAY...
YOU GOT ME, A-ALL RIGHT?
I GIVE UP! J-JUST TAKE ME IN!
BEGGING FOR YOUR LIFE, JACK?
ARE YOU GROWING AS A PERSON?

HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU--
YOU'RE A BUTCHER, JACK...
...A SERIAL KILLER...
...A DYED-IN-THE-WOOL MURDERER.
"TAKING YOU IN" ISN'T AN OPTION!
YEEEAA--
KRRRNCH!
DID YOU SEE THAT?
OH, I SAW. SHOULD WE CALL THE COPS?
IS HE--
THWUMP!

GET BACK!
THIS MAN'S DANGEROUS-- A MURDERER!
--THE DUDE'S GOT A PUMPKIN FOR A HEAD!
LOOKS LIKE SOME SORT OF SUPER VILLAIN TURF WAR!
SOMEBODY SHOULD CALL THE POLICE!
HEY!
DID YOU JUST KILL THAT GUY?
HE'LL LIVE...
...NOT THAT HE DESERVES TO!
UGHHHH.
AND WE...
WE...
...DON'T FEEL SO GOOD...

REEEEEEEEEAAAAAAAAAGGGGGGGH!
WHAT THE--?!
HE IMPLODED!
ANYBODY GET VIDEO OF THAT?

AFTER ONE OF HIS STORIES WAS DISCREDITED BY SPIDER-MAN, REPORTER EDDIE BROCK LOST EVERYTHING. READY TO END IT ALL, HE SOUGHT FORGIVENESS AT HIS LOCAL CHURCH –THE VERY SAME CHURCH WHERE SPIDER-MAN WAS REJECTING AN AGGRESSIVE AND SENTIENT ALIEN CALLED A ***SYMBIOTE.***

SENSING BROCK'S ANGER, SORROW AND HATRED TOWARD SPIDER-MAN, THE SYMBIOTE BONDED WITH HIM, AND THE TWO BECAME THAT MOST WICKED OF WEB-SLINGERS – ***VENOM!***

BUT THE SLIGHTEST ALTERATION TO THE EVENTS THAT BIRTHED VENOM WOULD HAVE RESULTED IN A DIFFERENT CREATURE ALTOGETHER. JUST BEYOND EDDIE'S VIEW LAY INNUMERABLE POSSIBILITIES. A MULTIVERSE OF POTENTIAL. A...

VENOMVERSE

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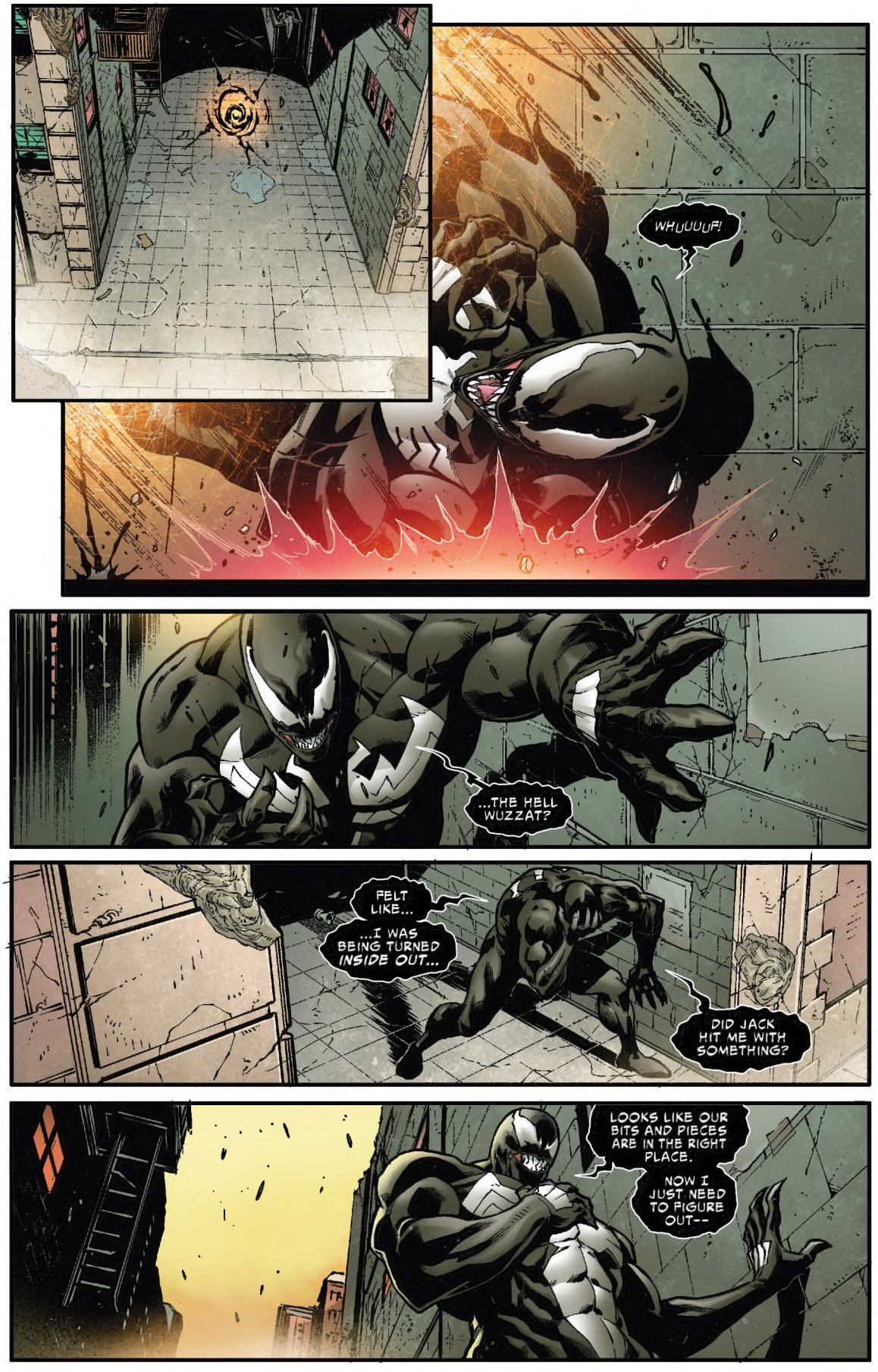
WITH LOVE TO **DAVID, TODD, MIKE, STAN AND STEVE**


WHUUUUP!
...THE HELL WUZZAT?
FELT LIKE...
...I WAS BEING TURNED INSIDE OUT...
DID JACK HIT ME WITH SOMETHING?
LOOKS LIKE OUR BITS AND PIECES ARE IN THE RIGHT PLACE.
NOW I JUST NEED TO FIGURE OUT--

--WHERE WE ARE?

HNH. I'M GUESSING IT WASN'T JACK WHO DID THIS TO ME.

M-MISTER? CAN YOU HELP ME, MISTER?

HEY... UH...KID. WHERE DID YOU COME FROM? WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

DON'T BE SCARED, ALL RIGHT? JUST COME HERE. TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON.

WHERE'S EVERYONE ELSE? MAYBE I CAN GET YOU--

SH-SMASH!

WHU--

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU THINK YOU JUST SAW, EDDIE, BUT IT WASN'T A FRIENDLY.
ANOTHER SECOND OR TWO, AND YOU WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ANY GOOD TO ME.
I NEED YOU TO COME WITH ME--RIGHT NOW.
Y-YOU'RE CAPTAIN AMERICA.
BUT NOT THE CAP I KNOW.
YOU JUST... KILLED A KID!
FALL IN, SOLDIER.
WHAT DID YOU SEE BACK THERE?
SOMEONE WHO MEANS SOMETHING TO YOU?
NO ONE MEANS ANYTHING TO ME.
THEN YOU'RE JUST THE KIND OF MAN WE NEED.

SHAKE A LEG.
WE NEED TO CLEAR SOME GROUND.
THE KID--
I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING ONCE WE'RE SAFE.
SUFFICE IT TO SAY, YOU CAN'T ALWAYS TRUST YOUR EYES.
NOT IN THIS PLACE.
YOU SHOULD HAVE APPEARED CLOSER TO THE CHECKPOINT.
SOMETHING'S WRONG--THE MAGIC IS GETTING WEAK.
WE'RE EXPOSED OUT HERE...TOO EASY TO TRACK.
WE MAY HAVE TO JACKRABBIT A BIT, COVER OUR TRAIL.
MAGIC?
IT TAKES SOME GETTING USED TO, I KNOW.
IT WAS MAGIC THAT BROUGHT ME HERE, TOO.
MAGIC BROUGHT US ALL HERE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "ALL"?
YOU WANNA TELL ME WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!
YOU'RE PART OF SOMETHING MUCH BIGGER THAN YOU EVER REALIZED...
...MUCH BIGGER THAN ANY OF US EVER REALIZED.

WELCOME TO THE RESISTANCE.

HEY -- I KNOW THIS GUY.

MY SYMBIOTE RECOGNIZES HIM.

IS THAT EDDIE BROCK?

YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME WITH THIS!

HE'S NOT MY VENOM.

NEW FISH ON THE LINE.

SHADDUP. CAN'T YOU SEE I'M BUSY?

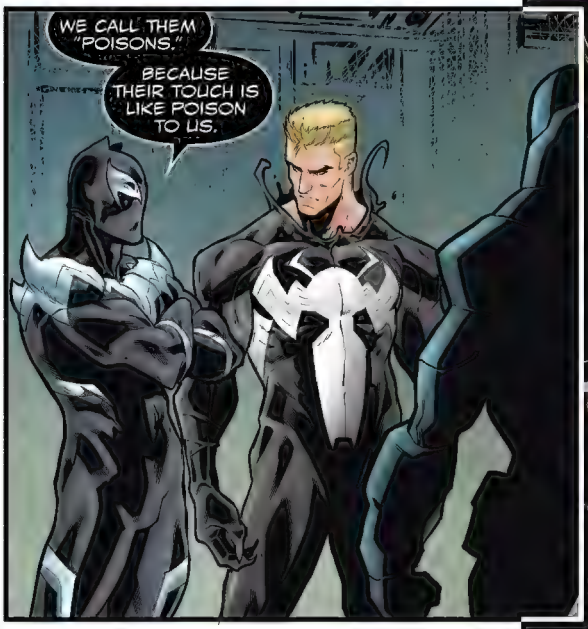
SO, THESE ARE ALL VENOMS FROM-- WHERE?
OTHER WORLDS...OTHER REALITIES?
YOU BROUGHT THEM ALL HERE--TOGETHER--AND YOU THINK THAT'S A GOOD IDEA?
IT WASN'T MY IDEA.
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT ISN'T MY FIGHT... OR YOURS, FOR THAT MATTER.
SEEMS TO ME LIKE YOU'RE CALLING THE SHOTS.
CAPTAIN AMERICA IS OUR TACTICIAN, YES...
...BUT IT WAS MY DECISION TO BRING YOU ALL TOGETHER.
I KNOW THIS IS CONFUSING, BUT YOU MUST UNDERSTAND...
WE CONSCRIPTED YOU...
...INTO A BATTLE FOR THE VERY SURVIVAL OF OUR SPECIES.
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I GIVE A DAMN ABOUT OUR SPECIES?
WE HAVE ALL FORMED A BOND WITH OUR SYMBIOTES.
VENOM IS NOT EDDIE BROCK. IT IS NOT THE SYMBIOTE.
WE ALL CARE ABOUT THEM, FOR LACK OF A BETTER TERM.
THIS IS OUR LAST CHANCE, VENOM. OUR LAST CHANCE TO SAVE THE BEINGS THAT MAKE US WHOLE.

LAST CHANCE AGAINST WHO?
THAT KID CAPTAIN AMERICA SMASHED OUT THERE?
THAT WAS NO CHILD. WHAT YOU SAW WAS A MONSTER.

THEY'RE WEAK IN THEIR BASE FORM.
THEY'VE DEVELOPED SOME SORT OF PSYCHIC DEFENSE MECHANISM.
THROWS ATTACKERS OFF... ALLOWS 'EM TO GET IN CLOSE.

I'M NOT SSSO CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR BASSSE FORM.
IT'S WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THEY CONSSSUME A SYMBIOTE AND HOSSST. THAT WORRIESSS ME.

"CONSUME"?


WE CALL THEM "POISONS."
BECAUSE THEIR TOUCH IS LIKE POISON TO US.

SEEMS LIKE YOU JERKS HAVE A PRETTY SIMPLE PLAN.
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL FIGURED OUT.
WHAT DO YOU NEED US FOR?

CAN WE TALK ABOUT THE NOTION OF BRINGING EDDIE BROCK INTO THE FOLD?
I KNOW THIS GUY.
THIS GUY'S A PSYCHO.
HE'S NOT GOING TO HELP US.
MAYBE YOU KNOW AN EDDIE BROCK, PAL.
BUT YOU DON'T KNOW ME.
YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND, STRIKE ME AS THE SAME KIND OF @#$% AS ANY OTHER SPIDER-MAN.
I GUESS YOU DECIDED TO KEEP YOUR SYMBIOTE ON WHATEVER WORLD YOU'RE FROM.
YOU THINK THAT GIVES YOU THE STONES TO GET IN MY FACE?
TAKE A STEP BACK OR I'LL SHOW YOU JUST HOW WRONG YOU ARE.
BOTH OF YOU STAND DOWN.
THERE AREN'T SO MANY OF US LEFT THAT YOU TWO CAN KILL EACH OTHER.
BROCK BRINGS OUT THE WORST IN HIS SYMBIOTE, NO MATTER WHAT WORLD HE COMES FROM.
HE CORRUPTS IT.
DOESN'T MEAN HE CAN'T BE USEFUL.
SUICIDE RUN OR SOMETHING.

FORGET IT.
I'M DONE.
WHATEVER MOJO YOU WORKED TO BRING ME HERE, PLAY THE RECORD IN REVERSE AND SEND ME BACK HOME.
YOU'VE GOTTA UNDERSTAND... THESE SYMBIOTES MAKE US TARGETS.
THE POISONS ARE TRACKING US.
IF THEY DON'T GET YOU NOW, THEY WILL SOONER OR LATER.
AND IF THEY COME FOR YOU--WHILE YOU'RE ALONE--YOU'RE FINISHED.
YOUR SYMBIOTE GETS TURNED INTO A WEAPON...SOMETHING STRONGER, MORE POWERFUL THAN IT WAS BEFORE...
...BUT IT CEASES TO EXIST AS ITS OWN ENTITY...
...AND SO DO YOU.
BUT WE DON'T HAVE TO BE MARKS WAITING TO GET KILLED OFF.
THE POISONS CAN DIE. WE CAN KILL THEM.
SNIKT
AW, NO. MY SPIDER-SENSE!
YOU WERE FOLLOWED!
YOU LED THEM RIGHT--

SMASH!

GET STRANGE OUT OF HERE!

ON IT!

I'LL COVER--

PUNY VENOM!

KRRRNKGK!

I THOUGHT WE WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO TOUCH THEM!

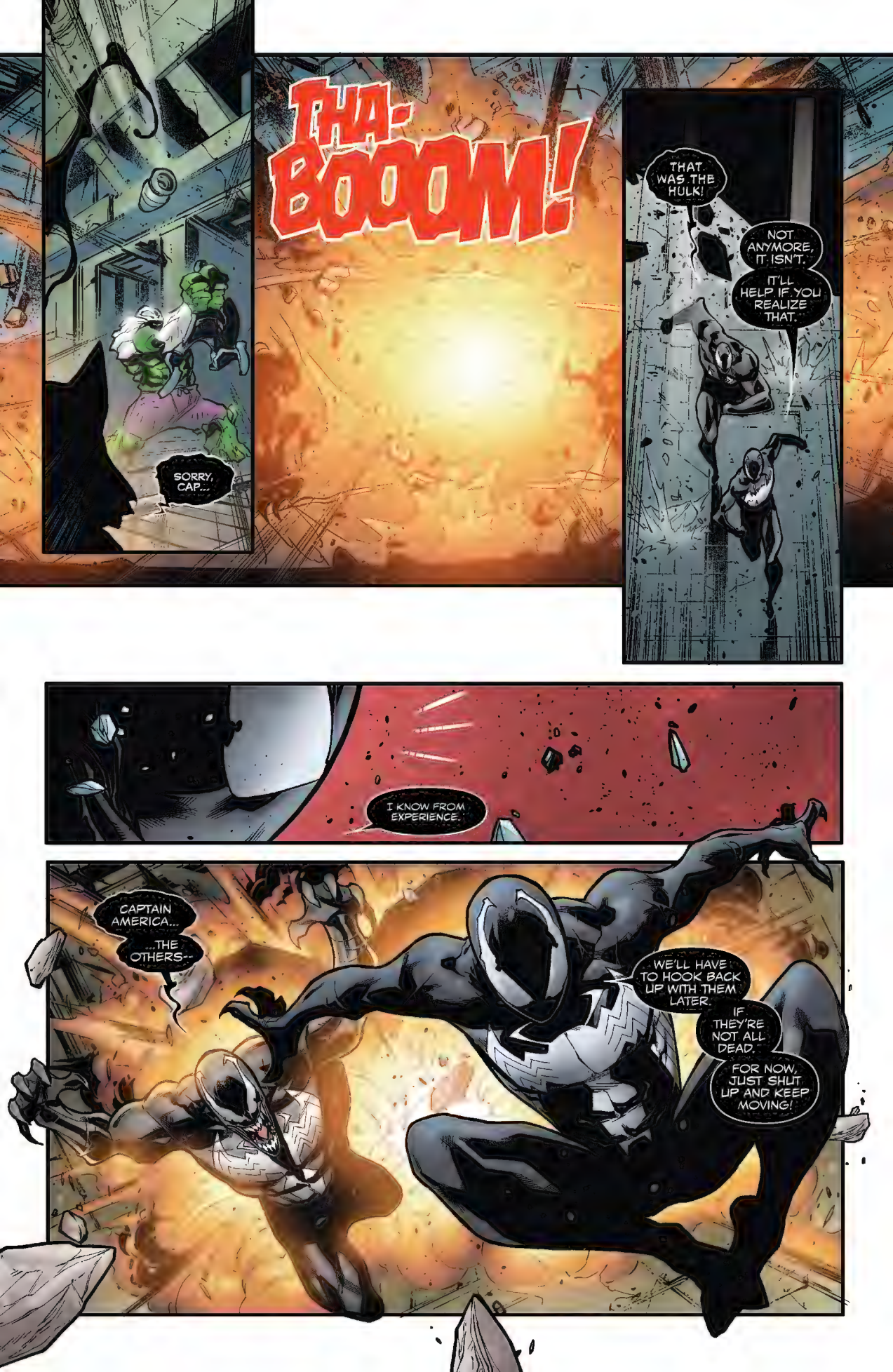
HE'S ALREADY MERGED WITH HULK AND HIS SYMBIOTE.

HE CAN'T CONSUME ANYONE ELSE...

...BUT HE CAN STILL SMASH US!

KRA-SMASH!!

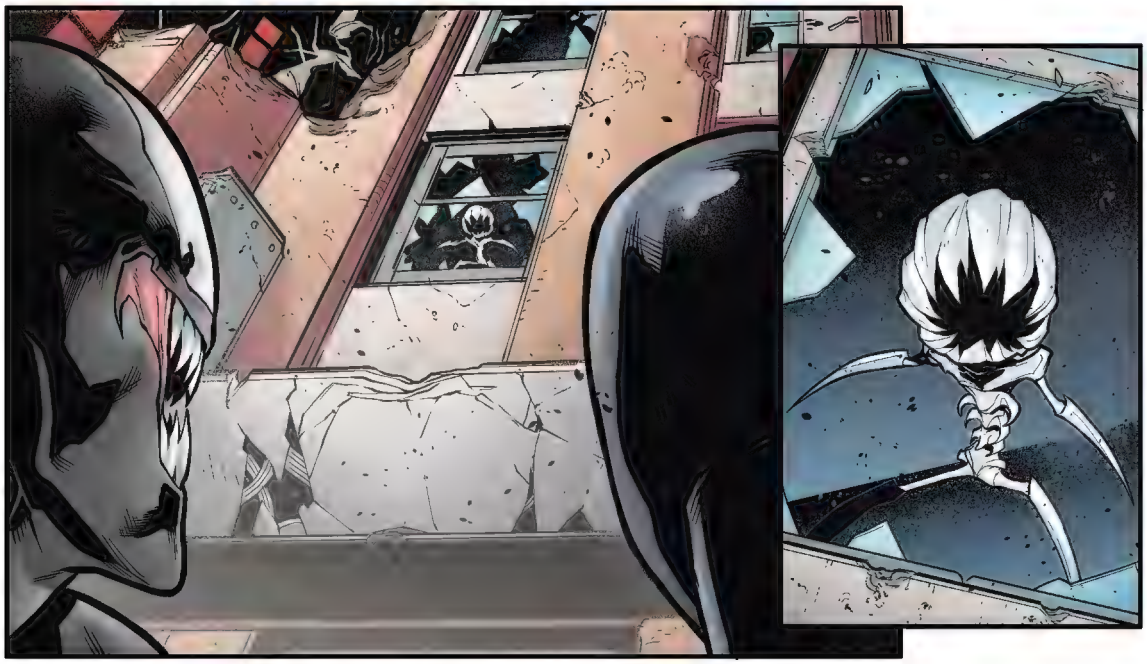
NNNUUH--
GET MOVING!
ON YOUR--
ARRGGH!
SCATTER! ALL OF YOU-- RETREAT!
THERE WILL BE OTHERS!
YOU'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!
SEAL THE TUNNEL, ROCKET!
AWWW.
I JUST GOT THIS BEAUTY FINISHED!

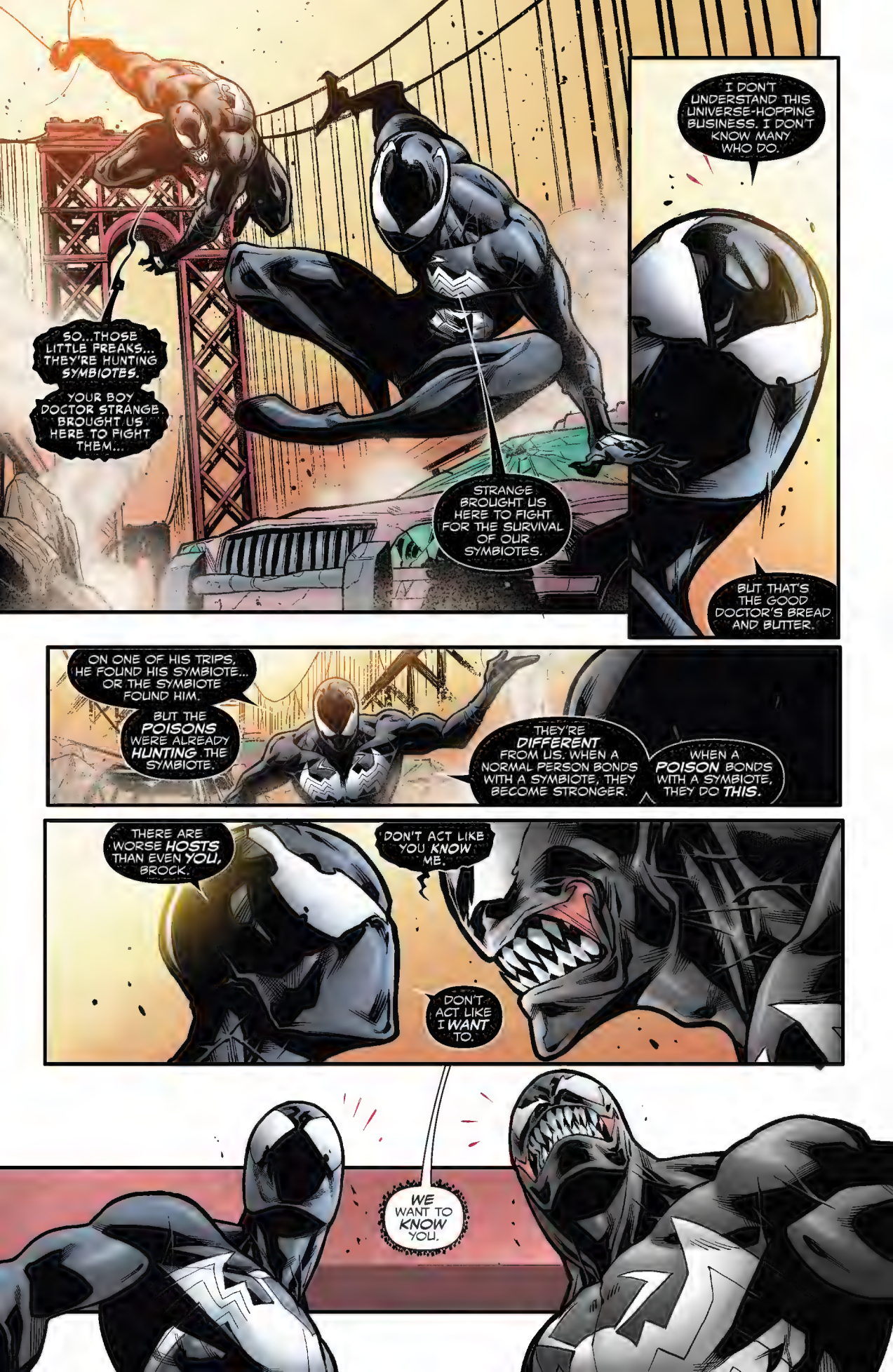

SORRY, CAP...
THA-BOOOM!
THAT WAS THE HULK!
NOT ANYMORE, IT ISN'T.
IT'LL HELP IF YOU REALIZE THAT.
I KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE.
CAPTAIN AMERICA...
...THE OTHERS--
WE'LL HAVE TO HOOK BACK UP WITH THEM LATER.
IF THEY'RE NOT ALL DEAD.
FOR NOW, JUST SHUT UP AND KEEP MOVING!

YOU KNOW, I'LL BE BETTER IN A FIGHT IF I UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M UP AGAINST.

HOW MUCH MORE EXPLANATION DO YOU NEED?
YOU'RE BEING HUNTED.
MAYBE YOU'RE BEING HUNTED, BUT NOT ME!
I'M THE HUNTER!

NOT ANYMORE.



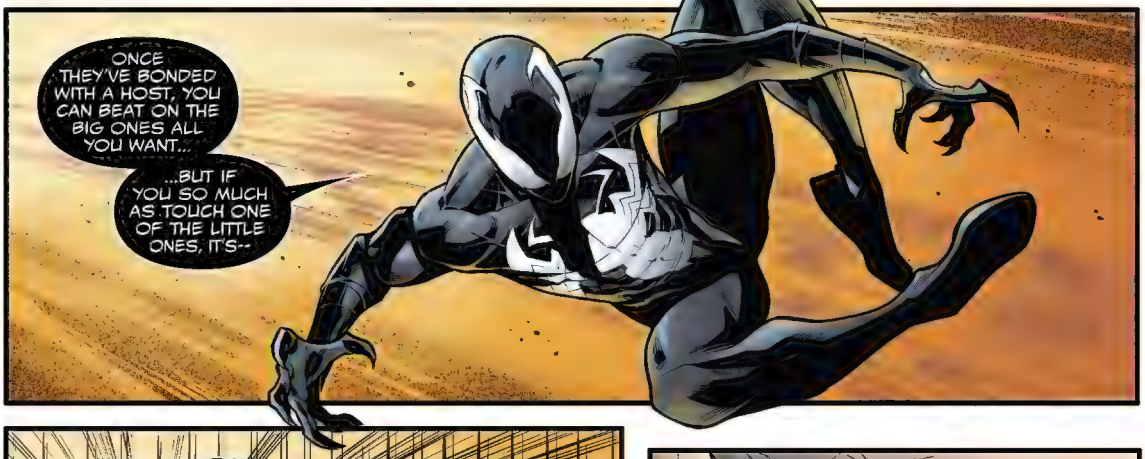

SO...THOSE LITTLE FREAKS... THEY'RE HUNTING SYMBIOTES.
YOUR BOY DOCTOR STRANGE BROUGHT US HERE TO FIGHT THEM...
STRANGE BROUGHT US HERE TO FIGHT FOR THE SURVIVAL OF OUR SYMBIOTES.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS UNIVERSE-HOPPING BUSINESS. I DON'T KNOW MANY WHO DO.
BUT THAT'S THE GOOD DOCTOR'S BREAD AND BUTTER.
ON ONE OF HIS TRIPS, HE FOUND HIS SYMBIOTE... OR THE SYMBIOTE FOUND HIM.
BUT THE POISONS WERE ALREADY HUNTING THE SYMBIOTE.
THEY'RE DIFFERENT FROM US. WHEN A NORMAL PERSON BONDS WITH A SYMBIOTE, THEY BECOME STRONGER.
WHEN A POISON BONDS WITH A SYMBIOTE, THEY DO THIS.
THERE ARE WORSE HOSTS THAN EVEN YOU, BROCK.
DON'T ACT LIKE YOU KNOW ME.
DON'T ACT LIKE I WANT TO.
WE WANT TO KNOW YOU.

VERY WELL, IN FACT.
YOUR MEMORIES... YOUR HOPES... YOUR DREAMS.
YOU WILL LIVE ON IN US.
WE GOT THIS, RIGHT?
I MEAN... THAT SORTA LOOKS LIKE DR. OCTOPUS!
YOU USED TO TROUNCE HIM ON THE REGULAR.
LIKE I SAID...
...IT HELPS IF YOU STOP THINKING OF THEM AS PEOPLE YOU KNOW.
THIS WOULD BE SO MUCH EASIER IF YOU WOULD JUST SURRENDER.

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME. GIVE YOURSELVES UP.
WHILE YOUR HUMAN HOSTS WILL DIE, YOUR SYMBIOTES WILL THRIVE IN A NEWER, STRONGER FORM.
HRRRAAAGH!
SLAM!
NNNNNN--
COME ON...HEAL ME...
...HEAL US...

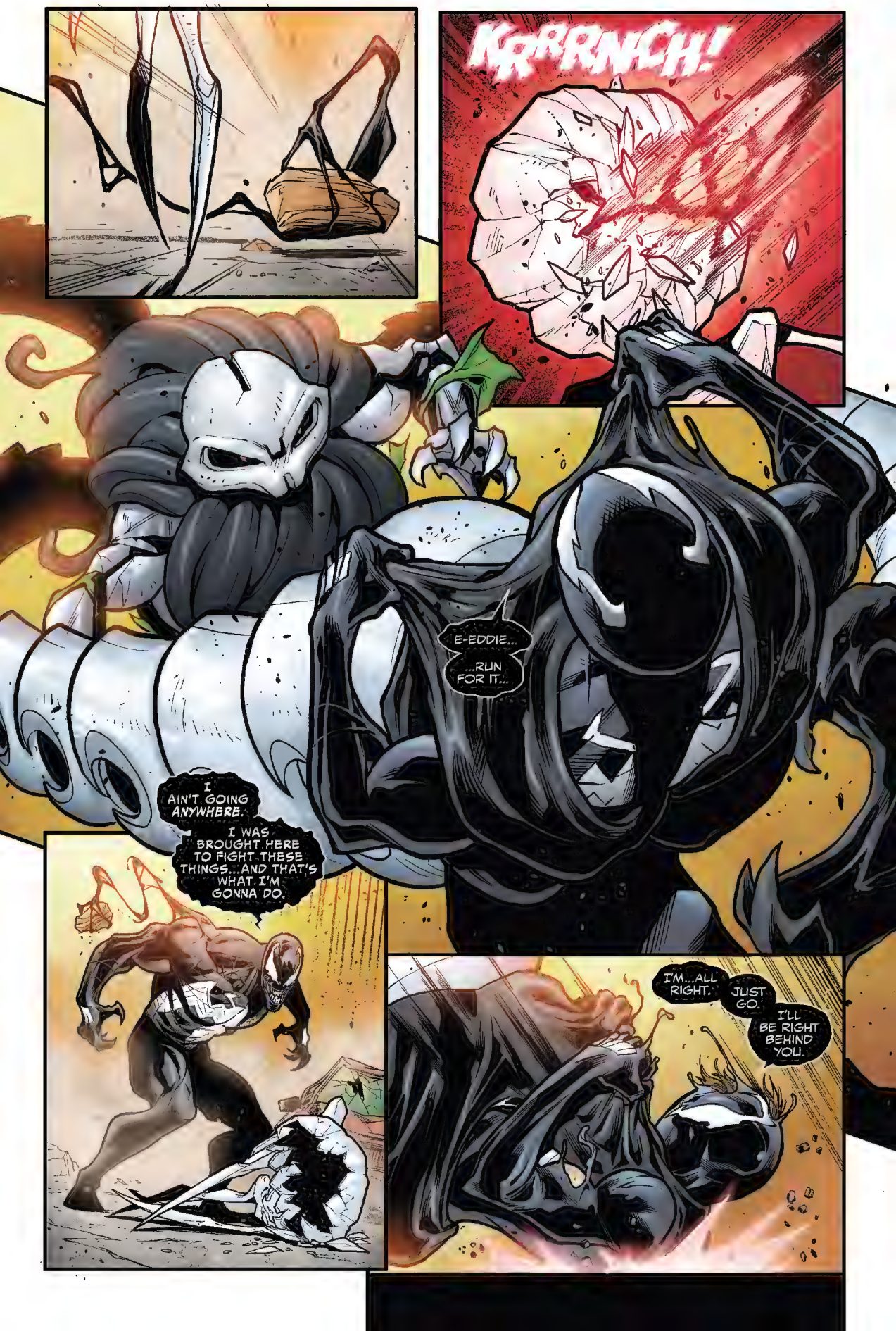
RAAAAGH!

DON'T TOUCH THAT THING!


ONCE THEY'VE BONDED WITH A HOST, YOU CAN BEAT ON THE BIG ONES ALL YOU WANT...
...BUT IF YOU SO MUCH AS TOUCH ONE OF THE LITTLE ONES, IT'S--

LURK--

BACK OFF, YOU LITTLE BASTARD!


KRRRNCH!
E-EDDIE...
...RUN FOR IT...
I AIN'T GOING ANYWHERE.
I WAS BROUGHT HERE TO FIGHT THESE THINGS...AND THAT'S WHAT I'M GONNA DO.
I'M...ALL RIGHT.
JUST GO.
I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU.

RRRRAAAAGGGH!
HNNN--
CHWOMP!
PETER?

HRRAAA--
OH, NO, PETER.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
OH, I'M SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
KRRRNK!
COME ALONG, DEAR.
UNCLE BEN IS WAITING FOR YOU BACK HOME.
THAT'S RIGHT.
THEY CAN DIE AFTER--
--ALL.
SEE, SPIDER-MAN? I TOLD YOU WE COULD TAKE--

SPIDER-MAN?
HE'S GONE NOW.
BUT I'M GONNA DO WHAT HE NEVER HAD THE GUTS TO EVEN TRY.
I'M GONNA KILL VENOM!
TO BE CONTINUED...

WELL VERSED

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SPIDER-MAN, SPIDER-MAN, DOES WHATEVER A POISON CAN! IS HE BAD? LISTEN, BUD, HE'S GOT A CRAVING FOR VENOM'S BLOOD! LOOK OUT, THERE GOES THE [POISONED] SPIDER-MAN!

Hello, Venomaniacs, and welcome, at last, to VENOMVERSE!

Nearly six months in the making, this series is one that's been crafted by us here at the House of Ideas to bring you more bang-for-your-buck than any other story in the history of the wicked web-slinger!

And who are the masterminds behind this terrifying tale? I'm glad you asked, True Believer!

Considering the gravity and scale of this story, we wanted someone well-versed in Venom and his exploits, and who better than Venom veteran and Marvel superstar Cullen Bunn?!

But a comic is nothing without its illustrator, and we found one of the best for this story – Iban Coello! Eagle-eyed Marvelites will note that this isn't the first collaboration between Cullen and Iban. They're the very team who brought you DEADPOOL AND THE MERCS FOR MONEY, and we were thrilled to bring them back together for this series. I think you'll agree, Cullen and Iban have done some killer (HAH!) work in this issue, and trust me when I say THINGS ONLY GET BETTER!

I can't mention the art for this series without giving a shout-out to Matt Yackey, colorist extraordinaire. Spider-Philes will recognize Matt's name from the canceled-before-its-time and your favorite comic you haven't read, WEB-WARRIORS! Matt's style is perfect for the kind of gritty, super heroic vibe we wanted for this book, and I couldn't be happier to count him among the VENOM ranks.

Cullen, Iban and Matt's efforts would all be for naught without the terrifically talented Joe Caramagna on board lettering this puppy. Joe is and has always been tremendously patient with notes from yours truly, and I owe him at least a dozen donuts for his work on this series.

Not a lot of space in this column, Web-Heads, but keep your eyes peeled for a special double-sized column in VENOMVERSE 2! In the meantime, here's a particularly special letter we received recently. Take a look.

Hello VENOM Team,

I've always been a huge fan of Venom, in fact he is my favorite Marvel character ever since he was first introduced to me back in the '90s as a kid. Eddie Brock returning to the role of Venom has brought tears to my heart because Venom has finally come home where he belongs.

Being prior military, I came back from service with PTSD and extreme depression, finding out that Venom went back to Eddie almost instantaneously made me feel amazing and whenever I think about Venom being Eddie again, it always takes me out of a slump and fills me with smiles. I want to say thank you for brightening up my year and I hope that they stay together from now on. Fingers crossed!

Respectfully,
Justin M.

Thanks for your letter and for your service, Justin. It always means a lot to us here at Marvel when we hear that our comics have made a difference in the lives of our readers. I really hope you've been enjoying Eddie's return to the pages of VENOM so far – trust me when I say things are only going to get better!

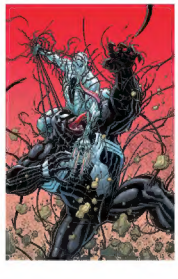
That's all the room we've got for this one, folks, but don't forget to send your thoughts on EDGE OF VENOMVERSE and this issue to SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM.

ITEM: ***Before we close this one out, I wanted to take a moment to say a kind word about "Fabulous" Flo Steinberg. If you're plugged into the internet, you know that Flo passed away a few weeks ago, and our funny books suddenly felt a bit less funny. Flo was a pioneer in the comics industry, and was part of the DNA of Marvel Comics for as long as they've been in existence. Longtime Spider-Readers will know that I was an intern here at Marvel for a few years, and Flo was one of the people I met my first day on the job. She was quick-witted, kind, and knew the ins and outs of the MU better than just about anyone. And, boy, did she love the books as much as you or I – probably more. So, if you're a Spider-Fan, be sure to send us letters when you catch typos. Without Flo, we'll need a helping hand.***

Over and out!
Devin

DL

NEXT



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